

Remarks

The Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's thorough examination of the present application as evidenced by the Office Action. As explained more fully below, the Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include the limitations set forth in claims 6-8 and has amended independent claims 45 and 52 to include the limitation of claim 48.

Paragraph 34 of the Office Action states that the limitations set forth in claims 6-8 contain allowable subject matter. The Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include the allowable subject matter previously set forth in claims 6-8. Accordingly, the Applicant believes that independent claim 1 is allowable and the claims that depend from independent claim 1 are allowable as they depend from an allowable independent claim. Similarly, paragraph 34 of the Office Action states that dependent claim 48 contains allowable subject matter. The Applicant has amended independent claims 45 and 52 to include the limitation of claim 48 and therefore these independent claims (and the claims that depend from these independent claims) are now in condition for allowance.

In view of the amendments and the remarks presented above, the Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims are in condition for allowance. The Applicant respectfully requests that a Notice of Allowance be issued in due course. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the Applicant's undersigned attorney in order to resolve any remaining issues in order to expedite the examination of the present application.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond the request for a thirty-day extension that accompanies this paper. But in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions

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are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on February 6, 2004


Laisha Richardson